Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 12 through 20 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is an open access signal distribution system in which a variety of wireless voice, data and other services and applications are supported. The open access ~~systems~~ system makes use of a distributed Radio Frequency (RF) distribution network and associated network entities that enable the system operator to employ a wireless infrastructure network that may be easily shared among multiple wireless service providers in a given community. The open access system provides the ability for such operators and service providers to share the infrastructure regardless of the specific RF air interface or other signal formatting and/or managing messaging formats that such operators choose to deploy.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11, lines 20 through 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The distributed architecture is comprised of multi-protocol, frequency-independent radio access nodes 50. In the preferred embodiment at the present time, each RAN 50 supports from 1 to 8 operators, commonly referred to as tenants 15, of various protocols and frequencies. It should be understood that other configurations could support a smaller or greater number of tenants per RAN 50. Within each RAN 50, the wireless service provider "tenants" have typically leased space for the service provider to install corresponding individual radio elements in a RAN slice 52. RANs 50 connect to a centralized base station ~~locale~~ location 30 where the tenants 15 connect to through an open access HUB 35 to the specific tenant's base station electronics. Each HUB 35 can scale to support one to three sectors of a base ~~stations~~ station 20. It should be understood that base stations with a greater number of sectors ~~20~~ may also be supported.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, lines 25 through 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 3, the OC-48 signal is received at the open access hub 35 at the multiplexer 108 that converts the OC-48 signal to a STS-12 signal. The STS-12 signal is then cross-connected through interconnect 106 to a designated BTS 20. The STS-12 signal is summed up to ~~8:1~~ 8:1 with signals from other RANs in the same simulcast and is then D/A converted 110 to a 50 MHz (+/- 7.5MHz) IF signal. It should be understood that in other configurations, more than 8 signals could be summed together. The 50 MHz signal IF signal is the up converted (U/C) 112 to the desired radio carrier and forwarded to the BTS 20. Providing for two receive paths in the system 10 allows for receive diversity.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 6 through 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The location of the RANs will be selected to typically support radio link reliability of at least 90% area, 75% at cell edge, as a minimum, for low antenna centerline heights in a microcellular architecture. The radio link budgets, associated with each proposed tenant ~~70~~, will be a function of the selected air protocol and the RAN 50 spacing design will need to balance these parameters, to guarantee a level of coverage reliability.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 20 through 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring in particular to the example shown in Figs. 6 and 7, WSP or tenant 1 is operating with a CDMA protocol and therefore is simulcasting a group of 8 RANs within a total number of 24 RANs 50. Each RF sector is connected to a different grouping of 8 RANs. The illustrated drawing in ~~Fig. 8~~ Fig. 7 is for a group of 24 contiguous cells showing how the three tenants may share them.